

REMARKS

1. Status of the Application

Claims 30-37 and 44-52, 61-69, 72, 73 and 76 are pending in the application. Claims 45-47, 52, 63, 65, 66, 68, 69 and 73 were withdrawn from consideration following an election. Claims 30-37, 44, 48-51, 61, 62, 64, 67, 72, and 76 stand rejected.

In the present Amendment, Applicant has herein canceled claims 30-37, 44, 48-51, 61, 62, 64, 72 and 76 without prejudice. Pursuant to the afore-mentioned election, withdrawn claims 45-47, 52, 63, 65, 66, 68, 69 and 73 are also canceled without prejudice. Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue protection for such claims in a continuing application in the future.

New claims 77- 87 were added to better define the various embodiments of the subject invention and without admitting the propriety of the rejections.

2. The Claimed Subject Matter is Patentable Over U.S. Patent No. 5,787,577 to Kent

In the prior Office Action, all of the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,787,577 to Kent (“Kent”). Applicant submits that the newly added claims are patentable over Kent.

Kent is directed to a method for adjusting an electronic part template. In particular, Kent provides, that “[I]n a quality controlled electronic parts placement process, electronic parts are inspected by a vision system including a camera prior to placement on a substrate, such as printed circuit board, by a part placement machine. The vision system determines whether to discard or use each electronic part based on an image of the part and a corresponding pre-stored electronic part template. The electronic part template is typically provided by the supplier of the electronic part.” Column 1, lines 11-19. Kent further provides that “there exists slight mechanical differences among the same functional electronic parts supplied by different suppliers. As a result, the decision to use or discard an electronic part from one supplier can be based on an electronic template provided by another supplier.” Column 1, lines 22-26. Thus, Kent’s device is directed to an apparatus and method for accommodating parts supplied by

different suppliers. Column 1, lines 31-33. This problem is vastly different from the problems solved by the embodiments defined in Applicant's pending claims.

Kent also provides that “[o]nce detected the vision processor 203 outputs the edge points 404b, 406b, 408b, 410b, 412b to the control section 204 (FIG.2) via bus 210 (at block 318 of FIG. 3). The control section 204(FIG. 2) determines the orientation of the picked electronic part in the nozzle from the edge points 404b, 406b, 408b, 410b, 412b and, accordingly, adjusts the placement head 11 (FIG. 1) of the part placement section 200 (FIG. 2) via instructions sent on the bus 208 (at block 320 of FIG. 3). This ensures accurate placement of the picked electronic part.” Column 4, lines 15-24. Thus, Kent takes employs a complicated method that requires the determining the orientation of edge points on the electronic part and lacks a fiducial marker detector as recited in the pending claims. The claimed embodiments include a detector for detecting a fiducial marker on the component to determine whether the component is properly aligned. Accordingly, Kent fails to disclose each and every element recited in any of the pending claims in the same form recited in those claims. Thus, the pending claims are patentable over Kent.

3. Conclusion

Applicant submits that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and passage to allowance of the subject application at an early date are earnestly solicited. If the undersigned can be of assistance in advancing the subject

application to allowance, the Examiner may contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature consisting of the letters "MK" with a curved line extending from the top right of the "K".

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In the Title

Please amend the Title as follows:

COMPONENT [ALIGNMENT APPARATUSES] TRANSFER SYSTEM

In The Claims

Claims 30-37, 44-52, 61-69, 72, 73 and 76 were cancelled.

Claims 77-87 were added.